

Small Group Discussion Questions York County

What is occurring in your communities which addresses these responsibilities and areas for action?

- Increasing the number of four year old classes
- Expanding alternative programs
- Academic plans as well as implementing EEDA - keep students as central focus
- Increased ESOL services
- Expanding technology to address student needs individually
- Expanding collaboration among community i.e. chambers, YMCA, Boy Scouts, Jr. Achievement...
- Fort Mill – Academy for nontraditional teaching
- Rock Hill- Phoenix Academy Non-Traditional approach
 - a) Literacy Walk
 - b) Rebound
 - c) Ninth Grade Academy
 - d) Parents as teachers programs
 - e) Family literacy
 - f) ESL
 - g) Parent Smart/ Leap Ahead
- Clover – Students engagement initiative
- Rosewood Elementary – Study with city diversity
- Chester – Ruby Payne research/ initiative
- Keeping up with early childhood issue – Directors communicating with EOC
- York Tech working with EOC in higher education training
- High School career clusters program
- Academy/ alternative programs- warm inviting learning environments
- Strong family literacy components
- First steps
- **Need** : so many students that we do not serve
- Family connection
- **Need** : Services for Special Ed. early childhood services
- Strength- after school programs /6th grade ex. – need to expand offering – Example in Rock Hill – the connection
- School to work program
- Community collaborations/ partnerships
- Joint board meeting of 4 local boards in York County – Oct. 19

- Community outreach programs
- New middle level certified program
- Recognize need for alternative programs (different school times/ days)
- Growing our own administrators locally
- CERA – TIR's provide services
- Parenting programs / resources
- Circle of cooperation between schools and government and businesses
- Good curriculum

What are the critical barriers to fulfilling the commitment in your community?

- Funding
- growth exceeding current resources
- challenging expectations for all subgroups
- transportation
- communication
- fluctuating standards
- limited opportunities for professional development
- fatigue and burnout
- attracting science , math, and special education teachers
- understand complex issues
- Effective data
- Growth shifting state funding
- No accountability for home school/ charter, private etc.
- School boards not involved/ speaking out
- Population/ diversity- schools cannot keep up
- Poverty issue is very large – Hard to solve at school level
- History of illiteracy and poverty in the state
- York Co. has reputation of being affluent – not so!
- Transportation
- Growth-complacency
- Funding
- Time
- Poverty
- More community involvement
- Create / grow new leaders
- Lack of communication to all segments of the community

- Concern- make things easier for families having difficulties already to offer positive support, be involved, place for their child after school – choices with supervised activities- academic/ sports utilize facilities
- Lack of local control
- Higher ed offered in area (Winthrop/York Tech) need stronger partnership
- Need strategic plan for area
- Lack of leadership to develop strategic plan
- Barriers for teachers wanting early childhood degree travel York Tech to Columbia difficult instead of Winthrop
- Need to make schools more inviting to parents
- Generational poverty
- Testing
- Lack of affordable housing
- Lack of access to technology after school and other resources
- Transportation
- Impact of population growth on school
- Lack of technology/ computers in school per student
- Negative publicity
- Educators lack of political knowledge

List the five most important things your community can do to address the responsibilities of Common Ground.

- Effective communication among all state holders
- Follow through on goals and expectations
- Ensuring we go from good to great by “working our plan”.
- Political advocacy
- Parent education and involvement
- Relationship with families
- Involve higher education
- Establish relationship between school district and business community
- Make schools center of activity
- Levels of government meet regularly to discuss common goals
- Time and man-power
- Finding more resources/ funding
- Finding coordinators/ leaders – to coordinate common ground – What do we have? How can we share? – Work together. How can we know who is doing what?
- Local view, sometimes narrow – some areas high poverty in state – Business employing state wide.
- Buildings – Use, renovate facilities that are vacant for programs – concern safety, pleasant environment

- Early childhood / after school programs
- Involve community to make change
- Leaders talk/ share resources – Superintendents collaborate
- Communication
- Remain/ become politically active
- Make the child center of focus
- Continuity in curriculum and educators
- Incentives to retain good teachers

List the five most important things you as an individual can do to address the responsibilities of Common Ground.